

**UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
NORTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA
SAN FRANCISCO DIVISION**

ASUS COMPUTER INT'L,

Plaintiff,

V.

ROUND ROCK RESEARCH, LLC.

Defendant.

Case No. 12-cv-02099 JST (NC)

ORDER ON DISCOVERY LETTER BRIEF

Re: Dkt. No. 121

The parties filed a joint letter brief on October 29, 2013, outlining several disputed discovery matters in this patent infringement case. Dkt. No. 121. ASUS filed a complaint on April 26, 2012, seeking a declaratory judgment of non-infringement of patents against Round Rock. Dkt. No. 1. Round Rock counterclaimed for patent infringement, alleging that hundreds of ASUS products infringe upon six Round Rock patents. Dkt. No. 8. Judge Jon S. Tigar referred the pending discovery dispute to the undersigned magistrate judge. Dkt. No. 123. The Court held a hearing on November 8, 2013. Dkt. No. 133. Having balanced the relevance of the requested information against the burden to plaintiff and the need for proportionality, the Court **GRANTS IN PART** and **DENIES IN PART** Round Rock's requests to compel production of documents and interrogatory responses.

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BRIEF

I. LEGAL STANDARD

2 In general, “[p]arties may obtain discovery regarding any nonprivileged matter that
3 is relevant to any party’s claim or defense.” Fed. R. Civ. P. 26(b)(1). Information is
4 relevant for discovery purposes if it “appears reasonably calculated to lead to the discovery
5 of admissible evidence.” *Id.* However, the Court must limit the scope of discovery if it
6 determines that “the burden or expense of the proposed discovery outweighs its likely
7 benefit, considering the needs of the case, the amount in controversy, the parties’ resources,
8 the importance of the issues at stake in the action, and the importance of the discovery in
9 resolving the issues.” Fed. R. Civ. P. 26(b)(2)(C). In other words, the Court seeks to
10 “strike[] the proper balance between permitting relevant discovery and limiting the scope
11 and burdens of the discovery to what is proportional to the case.” *Kaiser v. BMW of N. Am.,*
12 *LLC*, No. 12-cv-01311 DMR, 2013 WL 1856578, at *3 (N.D. Cal. May 2, 2013).

II. ANALYSIS

14 The parties have outlined five categories of information in dispute. The Court
15 addresses each in turn.

16 First, Round Rock requests the production of “product schematics and technical
17 drawings for the products accused of infringing the ‘791, ‘053, and ‘949 patents, including
18 any schematics or technical drawings for the components in those products.” Dkt. No. 121
19 at 3. The Court finds the requested information relevant to the issue of infringement, and
20 ASUS has failed to demonstrate how production of the information would impose a
21 significant burden. *See* Patent L. R. 3-4(a). Therefore, the Court GRANTS Round Rock’s
22 request to compel the production of product schematics and technical drawings for products
23 accused of infringing the ‘791, ‘053, and ‘949 patents.

24 Second, the parties dispute the adequacy of already-produced sales data for accused
25 products. Round Rock insists that ASUS has not produced “documents showing cost or
26 profits of the accused products on a monthly, quarterly, or annual basis,” nor “any
27 documents showing projected sales of any of the accused products.” *Id.* at 3. However,
28 ASUS represents that it has produced “annual sales of each accused product by unit and

1 dollar amount, as well as the costs of these products.” *Id.* at 7. ASUS also states that it has
 2 produced some market analysis documents that include projected sales, and that apart from
 3 those documents it “has not located any sales projections after a reasonable search.” *Id.*
 4 The Court finds that Round Rock has not shown the inadequacy of already-produced sales
 5 data or the need for sales data in a quarterly, rather than annual, basis. Nor has Round Rock
 6 demonstrated that ASUS has not conducted a reasonable search for sales projections.
 7 Therefore, the Court DENIES Round Rock’s request to compel production of further sales
 8 data.

9 Third, Round Rock seeks production of product requirement or product
 10 development documents, including “sales kits” for each of the accused products. Dkt. No.
 11 121 at 4. Round Rock argues that these documents are relevant to proving demand for the
 12 innovative features claimed in the patents at issue. *Id.* ASUS argues that these documents
 13 were not encompassed in Round Rock’s requests for production, and that ASUS has already
 14 produced certain sales kits and bills of materials. *Id.* at 8. The Court finds that this
 15 category of documents is relevant and was included in Round Rock’s document requests,
 16 but also finds that the burden of producing these documents for the hundreds of accused
 17 products would be disproportionate to the benefit to defendant. Because Round Rock
 18 charted three products as representative of hundreds of others that allegedly infringe in the
 19 same manner, the Court finds that product development documents for the charted
 20 documents will serve to demonstrate the demand for the innovative features of the patents,
 21 without unduly burdening ASUS. Therefore, the Court ORDERS ASUS to produce all
 22 product requirement documents or product development documents for the charted
 23 products, including sales kits, or to identify which already-produced documents satisfy this
 24 category.

25 Fourth, Round Rock requests that the Court compel ASUS to identify “all license
 26 agreements and indemnification agreements concerning any accused product.” *Id.* at 4.
 27 Round Rock contends that these agreements are relevant for damages purposes, and the
 28 Court agrees. To the extent that ASUS raises concerns for the privacy interests of third

1 parties, the Court encourages the parties to agree upon a protective order that serves to
2 protect those interests. Therefore, the Court ORDERS ASUS to identify and produce any
3 license or indemnification agreements concerning an accused product, subject to a
4 protective order.

5 Finally, Round Rock asks the Court to compel ASUS to respond to an interrogatory
6 regarding ASUS' non-infringement contentions. *Id.* at 8. ASUS argues that the request is
7 premature, and that the exchange of infringement contentions should be mutual. The Court
8 agrees that the parties should mutually exchange infringement and non-infringement
9 contentions, but finds that the time has come to do so. *See* Patent L. R. 3-1, 3-3. The Court
10 ORDERS the parties to exchange these contentions within 14 days.

III. CONCLUSION

12 The Court ORDERS the parties, within 7 days of this order, to submit a joint
13 proposed protective order, or in the alternative, separate proposed protective orders. The
14 Court further ORDERS the parties to exchange infringement or non-infringement
15 contentions within 14 days of this order. The Court ORDERS ASUS, no later than 14 days
16 after the Court enters a protective order, to produce to Round Rock the following: 1)
17 product schematics and technical drawings for the products accused of infringing the '791,
18 '053, and '949 patents, including any schematics or technical drawings for the components
19 in those products; 2) all product requirement documents or product development documents
20 for the charted products, including sales kits, or to identify which already-produced
21 documents satisfy this category; 3) all license agreements and indemnification agreements
22 concerning any accused product.

1 Any party may object to this order to Judge Tigar within 14 days. Fed. R. Civ. P.
2 72(a).

3 IT IS SO ORDERED.

4 Date: November 20, 2013



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6 Nathanael M. Cousins
United States Magistrate Judge

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